Status of the claims:

1-148 (canceled)

149. (previously amended) A controlled release dosage form for oral administration to a human comprising a therapeutically effective amount of azithromycin and one or more additional components, said dosage form controlling the azithromycin release rate into the gastrointestinal tract of said human, thereby decreasing the incidence or severity of gastrointestinal side effects, said dosage form releasing the bulk of its azithromycin in a portion of the gastrointestinal tract distal to the duodenum.

150. (previously presented) The controlled release dosage form of claim 149 that releases 80% or more of the azithromycin in the portion of the gastrointestinal tract distal to the duodenum.

151. (canceled)

152. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 150 that release no more than about 10% of the azithromycin in the stomach.

153-163 (canceled)

164. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 150 comprising a plurality of particles, said particles having a diameter of from about 50 micrometers to about 3 millimeters.

165. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 164 wherein said particles comprise azithromycin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

166 (canceled)

167. (canceled)

168. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 152 comprising a plurality of particles, said particles having a diameter of from about 50 micrometers to about 400 micrometers.

169. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 152 comprising a plurality of particles, said particles having a diameter of from about 50 micrometers to about 3 millimeters.

170. (canceled)

171. (previously amended) The dosage form of claim 150 in the form of a capsule, a tablet, a suspension or a sachet.

172. (previously amended) The dosage form of claim 164 in the form of a sachet.

173. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 164 wherein said particles further comprise a matrix material.

174. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 173 wherein said matrix material is selected from the group consisting of waxes, cellulose and derivatives thereof, polymers; and mixtures thereof.

175. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 174 further comprising a release-modifying agent.

176. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 152 comprising a hydrogel.

177. (canceled)

178. (previouslly amended) The dosage form of claim 149 or 150 comprising a plurality of particles, said particles having a diameter of from about 50 micrometers to

about 3 millimeters and said particles further comprising a core, said core having a first surface coating thereon.

179. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 178 wherein said core comprises azithromycin and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, carrier or diluent.

180. (canceled)

181. (canceled)

182. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 178 wherein said first surface coating comprises a sustained release coating.

183. (canceled)

184. (canceled)

185. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 178 further comprising a second surface coating on said core.

186. (canceled)

187. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 185 wherein said second surface coating comprises a sustained release coating.

188. (canceled)

189. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 185 wherein said second surface coating comprises an enteric coating.

190 (canceled)

191-207 (canceled)

208. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 149 comprising a matrix multiparticulate.

209. (canceled)

210. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 208 wherein said matrix multiparticulate comprises a plurality of azithromycin-containing particles, each particle comprising a mixture of azithromycin with one or more excipients, said mixture forming the matrix limiting the release rate of the azithromycin into the gastrointestinal tract.

211. (canceled)

212. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 208 wherein said release rate is such that no more than 70% of the azithromycin is released within about one-half hour from time of ingestion.

213. (canceled)

214. (canceled)

215. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 149 wherein the azithromycin is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

216. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 149 wherein the azithromycin is in an anhydrous form.

217. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 149 wherein the azithromycin is in a hydrated form.

218. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 215 wherein the azithromycin is in a dihydrate form.

219. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 149 wherein said azithromycin is present in an amount of from about 1 gram to about 7 grams.

220. (previously presented) The dosage form of claim 217 wherein said azithromycin is present in an amount of from about 1.5 grams to about 4 grams.